GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2197
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2017
Launch of Satellites
Chinnaraj Shri Gopalakrishnan;Gavit Dr. Heena Vijaykumar;Kataria Shri Rattan Lal;Mahadik Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;P. Shri Nagarajan;Satav Shri Rajeev Shankarrao;Singh Shri Rama Kishore;Somaiya Dr. Kirit;Sule Smt. Supriya Sadanand;Tiwari Shri Manoj Kumar;Venkatesh Babu Shri T.G.

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) placed 104 satellites in space in a single launch by its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether majority of satellites were from foreign countries and if so, the details thereof;
(d) the foreign exchange earned out of this satellite launch;
(e) whether India plans to go to Venus for the first time and revisit the red planet Mars; and
(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the mission to Mars and Venus will be undertaken?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PG & PENSIONS AND IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH):

(a) Yes Madam.

(b) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched 104 satellites, in a single launch, onboard India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle 'PSLV-C37 on February 15, 2017 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota. These satellites include - (i) India's Cartosat-2 Series Satellite (weighing 714 kg) as primary payload, (ii) two Indian Nano-Satellites viz., INS-1A & 1B (together weighing 18.1 kg) and (iii) 101 foreign nano-satellites (together weighing 645.9 kg) from six countries as co-passengers.

(c) Yes Madam. Out of the 104 satellites launched in this mission, 101 nano satellites were from foreign countries viz. Israel (1), Kazakhstan (1), The Netherlands (1), Switzerland (1), UAE (1) and USA (96). These nano satellites from foreign countries were launched under a commercial arrangement between Antrix Corporation Limited (Antrix), the commercial arm of ISRO and the foreign customer.

(d) Antrix has earned a revenue of about half of the cost of launch vehicle in terms of foreign exchange.

(e) & (f)
After Chandrayaan-1 and India's first interplanetary mission 'Mars Orbiter Mission', the feasibility of future inter-planetary missions to Mars and Venus are under discussion and presently a study team is exploring various options and opportunities for such missions. The study team's recommendations will be reviewed by Advisory Committee for Space Sciences (ADCOS) for further considerations.

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